

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5722

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE NACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4445

GABORONE FOR ASST SECRETARY SCHAUFELE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SF, US, PFOR

SUBJ: CISKEI CHIEF MINISTER PLANS WASHINGTON TRIP

REF: PRETORIA 4414

1. SABC EVENING NEWS SEPT 29 INCLUDED ITEM TO EFFECT THAT CISKEI CHIEF MINISTER LENNOX SEBE PLANS TO VISIT WASHINGTON ABOUT OCTOBER 14 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER CONCERNING POSSIBLE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELANDS.

2. SEBE'S ADVISOR, DR. JOHN BURNS, TELEPHONED POL COUNS MORNING SEPT 30 TO SAY HE HAD KNOWN NOTHING ABOUT NEWS ITEM, AND TO ASSURE EMBASSY THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS NOT PARTY TO ATTEMPT TO CIRCUMVENT NORMAL CHANNELS IN SEEKING APPOINTMENT. BURNS SAID THAT SEBE HAD CALLED HIM ON 28TH TO SAY THAT HE HAD DECIDED DEFINITELY TO DEPART FOR WASHINGTON ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, WITH OBJECT SEEKING APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY AND OTHER HIGH US OFFICIALS. SEBE HAS ASKED BURNS TO LEAVE FOR WASHINGTON MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING PROGRAM INCLUDING PERSONAL APPEARANCES, NEWS AND TV COVERAGE, IN ADDITION TO HIGH-LEVEL APPOINTMENTS IN STATE DEPARTMENT. BURNS MENTIONED NAMES OF SENATOR

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JACKSON, DEPUTY ASST SECRETARY AF WILLIAM EDMONDSON, AND

DIRECTOR AF/S WISNER AS PROBABLE POINTS OF CONTACT.

3. BURNS SAID SEBE HAS IMPRESSION THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER PROMISED DURING MEETING SEPT 18 WITH BLACK LEADERS TO "CONSIDER" OR TO "LOOK INTO THE QUESTION OF" PROVIDING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO HOMELAND BLACKS. HE WANTS TO CAPTURE LEAD IN FOLLOWING UP THIS POSSIBILITY. BURNS FEELS THAT SEBE WILL WISH TO PROCEED TO WASHINGTON EVEN IF IT SHOULD PROVE IMPOSSIBLE TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH SECRETARY. BURNS WAS ASSURED THAT REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT HAD BEEN CABLED, AND THAT HE WOULD BE INFORMED AS SOON AS REPLY RECEIVED.

4. SEBE'S TRIP TO WASHINGTON WITH EXPECTATIONS HE HAS AND PUBLICITY HE WOULD LIKE TO GENERATE COULD PROVE MISCHIEVOUS IN PRESENT CONTEXT OF ATTENTION BEING FOCUSED ON RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT. RECOMMEND THAT I BE AUTHORIZED TO DISCOURAGE HIS MAKING TRIP AND EXPECTATION OF ASSISTANCE BY REFERRING TO THE SECRETARY'S HEAVY SCHEDULE AND NOTING THAT MEMO HE GAVE TO SECRETARY AT SEPT 18 MEETING WILL REQUIRE TIME TO CONSIDER ALL ASPECTS OF MANY POINTS HE MADE. MESSAGE WOULD BE THAT WE WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM WHEN THIS EXERCISE COMPLETED.

BOWDLER

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